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CIA Chief Reported Opposed To 'Racetrack' Plans For MX

WASHINGTON (UPI) — CIA Director Stansfield Turner has registered a "strong objection" to administration plans to build MX mobile missiles and deploy them on "racetrack" bases in two Western states, it was reported Friday.

The CIA declined comment on the report by the Baltimore Sun's Pentagon correspondent.

According to the story, Turner registered his "strong objection" to the scheme at a Tuesday meeting at the White House attended by Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security assistant, Gen. David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Turner, a retired admiral, was said to have preferred doing away with increasingly vulnerable land-based missiles and instead building up the fleet of missile-launching submarines and Air Force bombers.

Turner's reported objections to the "racetrack" deployment of the MX missile would conflict with administration claims that a consensus had been reached on that system.

Under the plan, 200 missiles would be moved around tracks in Utah and Nevada and be deployed haphazardly in any of 4,600 shel-

ters so that they could not be individually targeted by the Soviets for first-strike destruction.

The Baltimore Sun said Turner's objections "were viewed by authorities as somewhat mystifying in view of the reported position already taken by his advisers at the Central Intelligence Agency."

"The CIA staff position, it was said, is that MX missiles could be counted by Soviet reconnaissance satellites — as required by the SALT II treaty — and could be regarded as highly 'survivable' under attack, based on estimates of Russian nuclear capabilities."

The intelligence chief upset the administration once before earlier this year when he testified before closed congressional sessions it would take four to five years before the United States could regain the verification and intelligence capabilities it lost because of the revolution in Iran.

Turner was also said to have noted in his testimony, which leaked to the press, that the SALT II treaty would allow the Soviets to build five new missiles while the public version asserted that only one new type would be authorized.